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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An improved boat docking stabilizer device for mooring a boat to a dock structure that stabilizes a moored boat allowing for safe boarding and de-boarding of passengers from the moored boat while permitting the boat to roll free with the waves thus preventing damage to either the dock or the moored boat[[.]], comprising:

a vertical support bracket mounted to the dock structure;

a hitch ball coupler pivotably mounted to said vertical support bracket for receiving a hitch ball [[coupler]] mounted on a boat; and

means for locking said pivotably mounted hitch ball coupler [[in]] pivoted to a ready position and conversely, pivoted to [[in]] a locked position.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said hitch ball coupler further comprises a handle mounted along the length of said hitch ball coupler as means for manual use of said device.

3. (Currently amended) The device of claim 1, wherein said vertical support bracket has a parallel row of apertures formed therein as adjustment means for the positioning of said vertical support bracket upon [[said]] a backboard.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein said hitch ball coupler may be adjusted vertically by moving pivot pin to different apertures in vertical support bracket.

5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for locking said hitch ball coupler in a ready position and in a locked position further comprises a locking pin received by apertures in the

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vertical support bracket such that the hitch ball coupler remains in a desired position.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4, further comprising a glide bar mounted on a surface extending away from said pivoting hitch ball coupler in its stored position for providing a bumping surface for the boat prior to mooring.
7. (Original) The device of claim 6, further comprising a pair of the device of claim 1 positioned apart from each other on a dock such that a boat may be moored between said pair of the device.
8. (Currently amended) An improved boat docking stabilizer device for mooring a boat to a dock structure that stabilizes a moored boat allowing for safe boarding and de-boarding of passengers from the moored boat while permitting the boat to roll free with the waves thus preventing damage to either the dock or the moored boat[.] and [.] permits] permitting long-term mooring of the boat without damage thereto, comprising:
 - a backboard mounted perpendicularly to a dock structure by fastening means;
 - a vertical support bracket mounted to the dock structure;
 - a hitch ball coupler pivotably mounted to said vertical support bracket for receiving a hitch ball coupler mounted on a boat; and
 - means for locking said hitch ball coupler in a ready position and in a locked position.
9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein said hitch ball coupler further comprises a handle mounted along the length of said hitch ball coupler as means for manual use of said device.
10. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein said backboard has a parallel row of apertures formed therein as adjustment means for the positioning of said backboard relative to said dock.
11. (Original) The device of claim 10, further comprising a glide bar mounted on a surface extending away from said pivoting hitch ball coupler in its stored position for providing a bumping

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surface for the boat prior to mooring.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising a pair of the device of claim 8 positioned apart from each other on a dock such that a boat may be moored between said pair of the device such that the moored boat rides on the water without damage to either the boat or the dock.

13. (Original) The device of claim 8, such that the pair of the device of claim 8 could be mounted for use on a larger boat to moor a smaller boat thereto.

14. (Original) The device of claim 8, further comprising a glide bar mounted on a surface extending away from said pivoting hitch ball coupler in its stored position for providing a bumping surface for the boat prior to mooring.

15. (Original) The device of claim 8, whereby the hitch assembly can be secured against pivotal movement by use of a locking pin at the pivoting hitch ball coupler.

16. (Currently amended) An improved boat docking stabilizer device for mooring a boat to a dock structure that stabilizes a moored boat allowing for safe boarding and de-boarding of passengers from the moored boat while permitting the boat to roll free with the waves thus preventing damage to either the dock or the moored boat[[.]] and [[permits]] permitting long-term mooring of the boat without damage thereto, comprising:

a backboard mounted perpendicularly to a dock structure by fastening means;

a vertical support bracket mounted to the dock structure;

a hitch ball coupler pivotably mounted to said vertical support bracket for receiving a hitch ball coupler mounted on a boat;

means for locking said pivotably mounted hitch ball coupler in a ready position and in a locked position further comprising a locking pin received by apertures in the vertical support bracket such that the hitch ball coupler remains in a desired position; and

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a handle mounted along the length of said hitch ball coupler as means for manual use of said device.

17. (Original) The device of claim 16, wherein said backboard has a parallel row of apertures formed therein
as adjustment means for the positioning of said backboard relative to said dock.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17, further comprising a pair of the device of claim 16 positioned apart from each other on a dock such that a boat may be moored between said pair of the device such that the moored boat rides on the water without damage to either the boat or the dock.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18, further comprising a glide bar mounted on a surface extending away from said pivoting hitch ball coupler in its stored position for providing a bumping surface for the boat prior to mooring.

20. (Original) The device of claim 18, whereby the hitch assembly can be secured against pivotal movement by use of a locking pin at the pivoting hitch ball coupler.

ADD THE FOLLOWING CLAIM

21. (New) An improved boat docking stabilizer device for mooring a boat to a dock structure that stabilizes a moored boat allowing for safe boarding and de-boarding of passengers from the moored boat while permitting the boat to roll free with the waves thus preventing damage to either the dock or the moored boat, comprising:

a vertical support bracket mounted to the dock structure;

a vertically adjustable hitch ball coupler pivotably mounted to said vertical support bracket for receiving a hitch ball mounted on a boat.